

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Unknown)
Filing Date: Unknown)
Priority Date: 2 September 2000)
Applicants: MOIR, Mark)
For: TELEVISION SYSTEM)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Television System" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0021549.1 filed 2 September 2000.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following headers and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application 0021549.1 filed 2 September 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-

Page 1, lines 15, 16, two occurrences, and 18 change "programme" to --program--; lines 23 and 26 change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 2, line 1, after "begins" insert --are shown--; lines 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 change "programme" to --program--; before line 7, insert the Header:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, lines 14 and 22 change "analyse" to --analyze--.

Page 3, line 28 change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 3, lines 3, 13, 14, 16, 20, 27, 29 and 30 change "programme" to --program--; line 28, change "characterised" to --characterised--; line 29 change "analysing" to --analyzing--.

Page 4, lines 3, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24 and 27 change "programme" to --program--;

Page 4, before line 6 insert the following header:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 4, before line 10, add the Header:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 4, line 13 change "analysing" to --analyzing--.

Page 5, lines 6, 13, 17, and 19 change "programme" to --program--.

Page 6, line 7 change "programme" to --program--.

Page 6, after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A television system [(2) including] ,said system comprising: a display screen

[(6) and]; a broadcast data receiver [(BDR) (4)] for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television [programme] program and/or channel information[, characterised in that] : wherein said television system [(2) is] being provided with means to search and/or [analyse] analyze the [programme] program and/or channel information relating to a [programme] program and/or channel which is selected for viewing by a user[,] for pre-determined criteria[,]; and said system [(2)] generating an indication of pre-determined criteria being detected in the [programme] program and/or channel information.

2. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the programme] wherein said program and/or channel information [analysed] analyzed is or includes the data transmitted to [the BDR (4)] said broadcast data receiver for use in generating an [EPG] electronic program guide display.

3. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein a search facility is provided in [the BDR (4)] said broadcast data receiver to search and [analyse] analyze the [programme] program and/or channel information for pre-determined criteria.

4. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication [(10)] generated is displayed on [the] said display screen [(6)].

5. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication generated is displayed on a display [(12)] of a remote control [(14)] for use with [the] said system.

6. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said warning generated is an audible signal.

7. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is repeated at pre-set time intervals during the time for which the [programme] program and/or channel are being shown.

8. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said pre-determined criteria may be selected from the group consisting of [include any or any combination of] key words, [and/or] codes determined by the broadcaster and/or user [or], a pre-determined transmitted message and [or] a signal which is received, processed and identified by [the BDR (4)] said broadcast data receiver.

9. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein a user can select the pre-determined criteria by the selection of a number of key words or topics provided in a drop down menu on [the] said display screen [(6)].

10. (Amended) A television system according to claim 9 [characterised in that] wherein the selection of pre-determined criteria is made using [the EPG] said electronic program display display.

11. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the user defines the pre-determined criteria by inputting one or more key words or subject matter

topics into [the BDR (4)] said broadcast data receiver via a query box on [the] said display screen [(6)] using control means.

12. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication display is stored in the memory provided in or connected to [the BDR (4)] said broadcast data receiver and displayed on said display screen [(6)] when the pre-determined criteria are identified.

13. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the facility for displaying [the] said indication can be switched on or off by the user as and when required.

14. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is a warning message and/or warning signal.

15. (Amended) A method of using a television system [(2), said television system (2)] including a display screen [(6)] and a broadcast data receiver ([BDR] (4)) for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television [programme] program and/or channel information, [characterised in that] said method includes the steps of: searching and analysing [programme] program and/or channel information relating to a [programme] program and/or channel which is selected for viewing by a user for pre-determined criteria and, on identification of said pre-determined criteria in the [programme] program and/or channel information, generating a visual indication for display on a display screen and/or audio indication for listening via speakers.

16. (New) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication is a warning signal.

REMARKS

Attached are the marked up versions of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

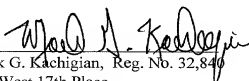
The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 31 August 2001

BY:


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New Header to be Inserted on Page 1, before line 1:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No.
0021549.1 filed 2 September 2000

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-

0021549.1

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 1:

This invention relates to a television system, and particularly to a television system incorporating an electronic program guide.

Conventionally, when a program is broadcast which contains material of an adult nature, such as bad language, violence, nudity and/or the like, a verbal warning is typically given by the television presenter/announcer before the program begins. However, if a user tunes into a program once the program has started, the user will miss the warning regarding the subject matter of the program. This may result in distress to the user when they are exposed to the material of an adult nature, which is undesirable. This is particularly undesirable if the user is a child.

Television systems are available which allow a user to set a PIN number which blocks certain programs and/or channels until the PIN number is entered. However, this PIN number is of no use with channels, such as BBC1, which show a wide range of programming. These channels show programs which are normally suitable for family viewing but on certain occasions broadcast films or documentaries which are unsuitable for family viewing and which may issue a verbal warning before the

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 2:

program begins are shown. It is not practical for a PIN number to be used on all available channels as every time a user switched channels or watches a program, the user would have to input a PIN number.

Header to be Inserted into Page 2:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 2

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television program and/or channel information, characterized in that said television system is provided with means to search and/or analyse the program and/or channel information relating to a program and/or channel which is selected for viewing by a user, for pre-determined criteria, and said system generating an indication of the pre-determined criteria being detected in the program and/or channel information.

Typically the program information referred to is that which is transmitted and used to generate an EPG display.

Preferably the BDR is provided with a search facility to search and analyze the information for the pre-determined criteria.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 3:

In one embodiment the indication can be an audible indication. The signal can be repeated at pre-set time intervals during the broadcast of a particular program.

In a further embodiment the user can select the pre-determined criteria by selecting a number of key words or topics from a drop down menu on the display screen, typically on the EPG display, for which an indication is to be issued if the words or topics are found in the program information of the EPG. For example, an indication can be issued to show that a program or channel contains adult material. Alternatively, a warning indication can be issued to show that a program is unsuitable for young children.

In one embodiment the receiver includes the indication display stored in memory and the same is generated on screen in conjunction with the relevant program when the pre-determined criteria are identified.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of using a television system, said television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television program and/or channel information, characterized in that said method includes the steps of searching and analysing program and/or channel information relating to a program and/or channel which is

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted Into Page 4:

selected for viewing by a user for pre-determined criteria and, on identification of said pre-determined criteria in the program and/or channel information, generating a visual indication for display on said display screen and/or audio indication for listening via speakers.

The BDR 4 is provided with a search facility for searching and analyzing program and/or channel information for pre-determined criteria, such as keywords. The program and/or channel information searched includes the data used to generate an EPG display. The BDR 4 is provided with memory in which the pre-determined criteria are stored and the BDR searches program and/or channel information relating to the channel currently being watched by the user of the system.

If certain key words are found in the program and/or channel information of the program/channel currently being watched, then a warning is displayed on the display screen 6 in a window 8. For example, a warning symbol 10 is provided in addition to a written warning message indicating to the viewer that the program contains material of adult nature. However, the warning symbol or message can be provided alone if required.

The warning can be displayed on the screen for the length of a particular program or for pre-set time intervals. A warning

Replacement Paragraph to be Inserted Into Page 5

A verbal warning can be given in addition, to or as an alternative to, the written warning and the verbal warning can be repeated at pre-set time intervals throughout the program.

The material which results in activation of a warning message can be pre-defined by the broadcaster. Alternatively, an electronic programme guide (EPG) can be provided with a drop down menu containing keywords which a user can select to be searched in the program and/or channel information and, if contained therein, for a warning to be displayed on the display screen. For example, a user may select to have a warning displayed if any material of an adult nature is shown in a particular program, such as nudity, violence, bad language and/or the like. Alternatively, an adult may select to have a warning displayed if material in a program is unsuitable for children of a certain age, such as parental Guidance (PG), not suitable for children younger than 15 years old (15) or similar. Appropriate warning messages can be displayed depending on the key words, codes or other indication means searched in the EPG

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 6:

Thus it can be seen that the present invention provides a means of providing an indication to viewers of user-selected or predefined material without requiring the user to enter a PIN number. Once the indication is displayed it gives the user the option of continuing to watch the program, to change channels or to switch off the television.

New Paragraph for Page 7 to be Inserted After the Last Line:

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

Clean Version of the Claims

1. (Amended) A television system , said system comprising: a display screen; a broadcast data receiver for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television program and/or channel information; wherein said television system being provided with means to search and/or analyze the program and/or channel information relating to a program and/or channel which is selected for viewing by a user for pre-determined criteria; and said system generating an indication of pre-determined criteria being detected in the program and/or channel information.
2. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said program and/or channel information analyzed is or includes the data transmitted to said broadcast data receiver for use in generating an electronic program guide display.
3. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein a search facility is provided in said broadcast data receiver to search and analyze the program and/or channel information for pre-determined criteria.
4. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication generated is displayed on said display screen .
5. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication generated is displayed on a display of a remote control for use with said system.
6. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said warning generated is an audible signal.

7. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication is repeated at pre-set time intervals during the time for which the program and/or channel are being shown.

8. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said pre-determined criteria may be selected from the group consisting of key words, codes determined by the broadcaster and/or user, a pre-determined transmitted message and a signal which is received, processed and identified by said broadcast data receiver.

9. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein a user can select the pre-determined criteria by the selection of a number of key words or topics provided in a drop down menu on said display screen.

10. (Amended) A television system according to claim 9 wherein the selection of pre-determined criteria is made using said electronic program display.

11. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein the user defines the pre-determined criteria by inputting one or more key words or subject matter topics into said broadcast data receiver via a query box on said display screen using control means.

12. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication display is stored in the memory provided in or connected to said broadcast data receiver and displayed on said display screen when the pre-determined criteria are identified.

13. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein the facility for displaying said indication can be switched on or off by the user as and when required.

14. (Amended) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication is a warning message and/or warning signal.

15. (Amended) A method of using a television system including a display screen and a broadcast data receiver for receiving data from a broadcaster and generating audio, visual and/or auxiliary data therefrom, at least part of said data relating to television program and/or channel information, said method includes the steps of: searching and analyzing program and/or channel information relating to a program and/or channel which is selected for viewing by a user for pre-determined criteria and, on identification of said pre-determined criteria in the program and/or channel information, generating a visual indication for display on a display screen and/or audio indication for listening via speakers.

16. (New) A television system according to claim 1 wherein said indication is a warning signal.